

U.S. Appln. No. 10/523,861
Reply to Office Action dated April 10, 2006

PATENT
450100-05043

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings include amendments to Figures 12-14, 15A, 15B and 15C. These two sheets, which include Figures 12-14, 15A, 15B and 15C, replace the original two sheets including Figures 12-14, 15A, 15B and 15C. In Figures 12-14, 15A, 15B and 15C, the legend "Related Art" has been added.

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Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are

respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 10-19 are pending. Claim 10, which is independent, is hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on page 16. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Applicant has amended the drawings and submits herewith corrected drawing sheets.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0052228 to Ko (hereinafter, merely "Ko") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,397 to Song (hereinafter, merely "Song").

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Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*:

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"An electronic device, comprising:...

a rotary operating unit that is configured to accept
rotating operation of a user,

an active element for detecting rotation of said rotary
operating unit, and

control means for controlling a power supply to said
active element,"(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Ko relates to a power control apparatus in a foldable portable radio terminal allowing the terminal to be powered on/off with the sub-body of the terminal being closed.

As understood by Applicant, Song relates to an apparatus and method for controlling a back light in a mobile terminal, in which a first back light of a liquid crystal display and a second back light of a key pad are independently controlled. The first and second back lights are driven if a flip cover is opened, while the first back light is only driven if the function selection key is input.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ko and Song, taken either alone or in combination, do not disclose the above features. Specifically, the combination of Ko and Song does not disclose an electronic device comprising a rotary operating unit that is configured to accept rotating operation of a user, an active element for detecting rotation of said rotary operating unit and a control means for controlling a power supply to said active element, as recited in independent claim 1.

Further, the rotary operating unit in the amended claim is configured to accept rotating operation of a user. On the other hand, the sub-body opening/closing motor 234 described in Ko is a motor which rotates on a hinge of the portable radio terminal and

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automatically opens/closes the sub-body 120 from/onto the main-body 110. This sub-body opening/closing motor 234 cannot accept rotating operation of a user, but is driven by the motor driving unit 232. Therefore, the rotary operating unit of the present invention is distinguished over the sub-body opening/closing motor disclosed by Ko.

Moreover, control means for controlling power supply to said active element is not obvious from Ko in view of Song. The control means in the present invention controls power supply to the active element depending on the operation modes, such as normal use mode or stand-by mode. Shift of the operation modes is, for example, made by opening or closing the display panel of the electronic device. If power to the open sensor 236 or the close sensor 238 described in Ko is lost, open/closed state of the sub-body cannot be detected. Therefore, power supply to these sensors is necessary for detecting opening/closing of the sub-body (display panel), which may be one example of trigger of mode shift, and cannot be controlled by the result of detection of these sensors.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Sheet

FIG. 12

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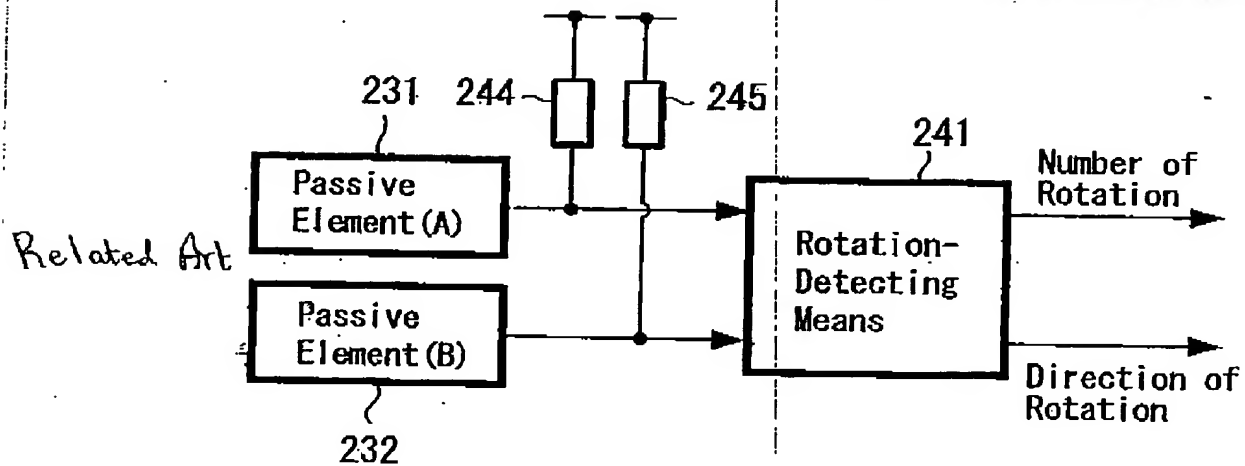


FIG. 13

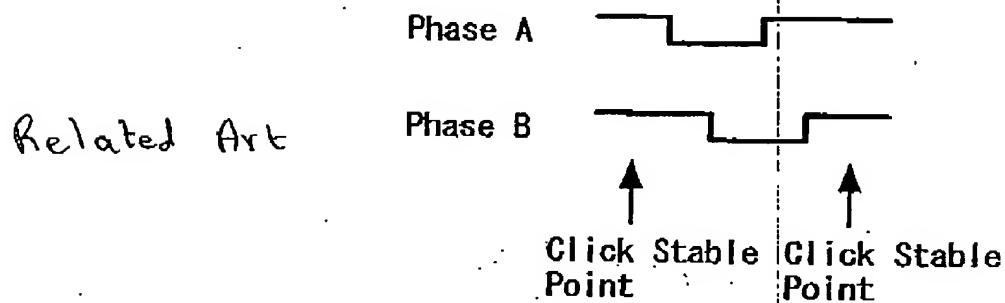
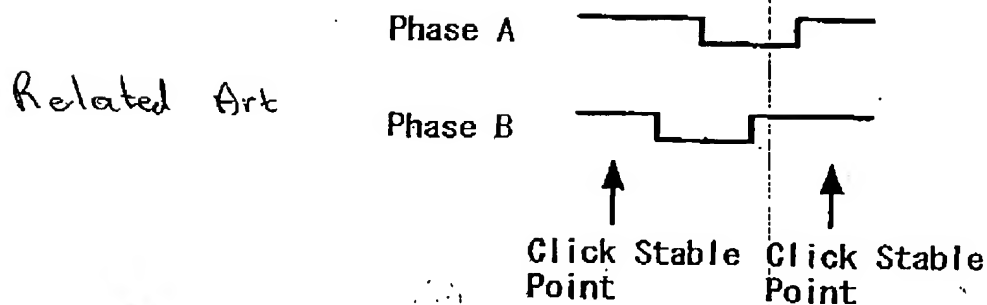


FIG. 14

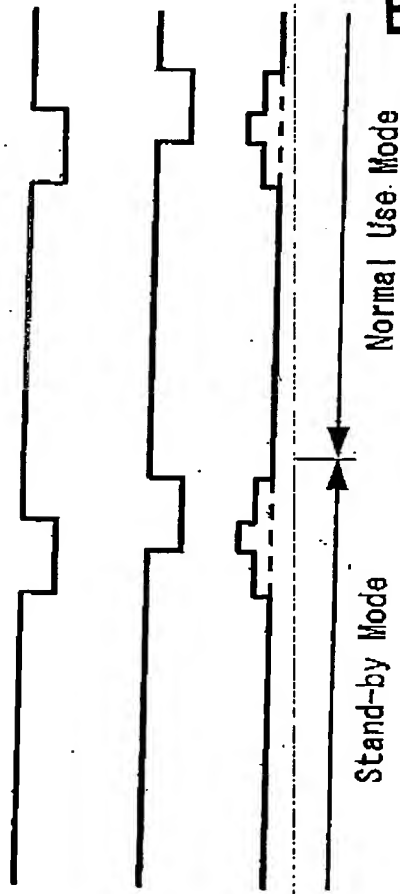


Annotated Sheet

FIG. 15A Output of Passive Element (A)

FIG. 15B Output of Passive Element (B)

FIG. 15C Power Consumption



Related Art

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